GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:299
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2016
Price Rise
Chandel Kunwar Pushpendra Singh;Chandrappa Shri B.N.;Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao;Chinnaraj Shri Gopalakrishnan;Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Gaikwad Dr. Sunil Baliram;Gavit Dr. Heena Vijaykumar;Gopalakrishnan Shri R.;Gupta Shri Sudheer;Jayavardhan Dr. Jayakumar;Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar;Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant;Lekhi Smt. Meenakashi;Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao;Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran;Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Mullappally Shri Ramachandran;Nayak Shri B.V.;Patil Shri Vijaysinh Mohite;Radhakrishnan Shri T.;Rajoria Dr. Manoj;S.R. Shri Vijay Kumar;Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao;Sawaikar Shri Advocate Narendra Keshav;Shewale Shri Rahul Ramesh;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh;Singh Shri Sushil Kumar;Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand;Suresh Shri Doddaalahalli Kempegowda;Thomas Prof. Kuruppassery Varkey

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of essential commodities including foodgrains, pulses, edible oils and vegetables have suddenly increased sharply across the country in the recent months, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether shortages and steep variation in prices of the said commodities have been reported from different parts of the country during the last six months, if so, the details thereof along with the demand and supply of the commodities and the corrective steps taken in this regard indicating the import thereof during the said period;

(c) whether the cases of violation of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 have come to the notice of the Government across the country during each of the last three years and the current year, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the details of pulses and other essential commodities seized during the said period and the directions issued to the States in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any policy to save the consumers from the impact of the price rise, if so, the details thereof;

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to control the prices of the said commodities and check their hoarding and black marketing in the country along with the achievements thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) & (b) : During last six months All India Average Retail prices of Tur and Moong in pulses, Mustard, Soya and Sunflower in Edible oil and Onion in Vegetables have declined while there has been increase in the prices of Gram and Urad dal in pulses, Groundnut and Palm oil in Edible oils and Potato and Tomato in Vegetables, details is at Annexure I. Rise in the prices of essential food items are due to factors such as shortfall in production owing to adverse weather conditions, increased transportation costs, supply chain constraints like lack of storage facilities and hoarding and black marketing. Government took various corrective steps to contain price rise which includes the following:-

â€¢ National Consultation Meeting of Ministers of States & UTs in charge of Food and Consumer Affairs, on prices of food items was held on 21.5.2016 at New Delhi and States/UTs were advised to take steps to keep prices of essential commodities including Pulses, Edible Oil etc. under control.
â€¢ Advisory were issued to State Governments to take strict action against hoarding & black marketing and effectively enforce the Essential Commodities Act, 1955; and the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

(c) : Yes madam. Details of violation of Essential Commodities Act (EC Act) are at Annexure II. Details of pulses seized are at Annexure III. State/UTs have also been advised to dispose of the seized stocks of pulses into the market after following due procedure provided in the EC Act, 1955.

(d) & (e) : A Plan Scheme titled Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) is being implemented to regulate price volatility of agricultural commodities. To monitor the unscrupulous trading, black-marketing, hoarding and cartelling in essential food commodities like Pulses, Edible Oils etc. and to ensure effective and coordinated action by different enforcement agencies, a Group of Officers consisting of representative from these agencies has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (CA). It meets regularly to review the food inflation, in consultation with States and advises to States and other agencies the course of action to keep the prices at reasonable level and share data/information to ensure coordinated action by different enforcement agencies, including intelligence under the EC Act. Details of steps taken by the Government to control prices is at Annexure IV.

*****